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December 30, 2014

HSZC.org



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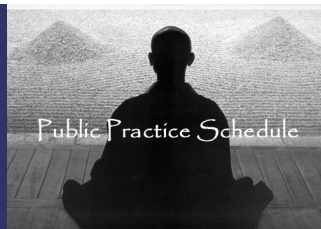
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Sangha e-Newsletter 2014



Bloodstream Sermon

Buddha is Sanskrit for what you call *aware*, *miraculously aware*. Responding, perceiving, arching your brows, blinking your eyes, moving your hands and feet, it's all your miraculously aware nature. And this nature is the mind. And the mind is buddha. And buddha is the path. And the path is Zen. But the word *zen* is one that remains a puzzle to both mortals and sages. Seeing your nature is zen. Unless you see your nature it is not zen.



Monday

*7:00 am Zazen

*7:40 am Morning Chanting Service

***Last Monday of each month, no morning schedule.**

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Evening Chanting Service

Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen

6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)

6:50 am Zazen

7:20 am Chanting Service

7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Chanting Service

Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen

7:10 am Chanting Service

7:25 am Soji

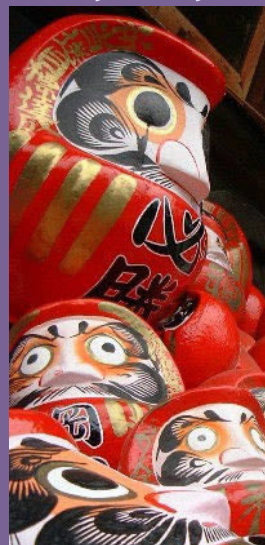
8:30 am Drop-in instruction

9:25 am Zazen

10:15 am Dharma Talk

11:00 am Refreshments/Social

Even if you can explain thousands of sutras and shastas, unless you see your own nature yours is the teaching of a mortal, not a buddha. The true Way is sublime. It cannot be expressed in language. Of what use are scriptures? But someone who sees his own nature finds the Way, even if he can't read a word. Someone who sees his own nature is a buddha. And since a buddha's body is intrinsically pure and unsullied, and everything he says is an expression of his mind, being basically empty, a buddha can't be found in words or anywhere in the Twelvefold Canon.



The Way is basically perfect. It does not require perfecting. The Way has no form or sound. Its subtle and hard to perceive. It's like when you drink water: you know how hot or cold it is, but you can't tell others. Of that which only a tathagata knows men and gods remain unaware. The awareness of mortals fall short. As long they're attached to appearances, they're unaware that their minds are empty. And by mistakenly clinging to the appearance of things the lose the Way.

from:

[The Zen Teachings of Bodhidharma Tr. by Red Pine](#)

We are making our annual request to you to, **please support the ongoing expense of maintaining and offering our little Soto Zen Temple, with residential student program, in the Castro.** Any amount greatly appreciated and [click here](#) to read our official annual appeal letter. Thank you for your generosity!

Donations are tax deductible!



End of Winter Light Retreat and Fall Study Period photo Dec 6 2014
Photo taken & provided by Shogen, Tom Hawkins



Upcoming Events:

Dharma Talks - [Rev. Myō Lahey](#) - Jan 3, 10, 17; Feb 7, 14 - @10:15am

- [Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock](#) - Jan 31, Mar 28, May 23, Jul 25 @ 10:15am (and more dates to come...)

Guest Speaker Saturdays - [Kogen Seido, Jamie Howell](#) - Jan 17, [Renshin Bunce](#) - Mar 21, [Fugan, Eugene Bush](#) - May 9, [Fugan, Eugene Bush](#) - Nov 14

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday, January 3rd @ 11am - the Full wolf, old, snow, or after yule Moon. Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January's full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon.

Sangha Council - TBA - Last session: November 8th 2014

New Year 2015! - Join us for an evening event kicking off at 7:30pm



weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing



weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

and taking us into 12am Jan 1 2015! There'll be some soji or traditional New Year's temple cleaning, a light snack , zazen (seated meditation), striking our large bell 108 times, and finally a toast to the new year. Please note: There won't be the regularly scheduled zendo events on the 31st.... (We will additionally observe Chinese new year and goals set with a new Daruma, as we have been the past few years for the year of the Sheep/Goat in mid-February).

Dōgen (道元) Zenji's Birthday - We will observe & celebrate this event on **Saturday Jan 24th @11am**

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

Practice Discussions are now available to be scheduled with Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock. Please contact him directly or email: hszc108@yahoo.com to request to schedule time.

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month January 14 @ 7:30pm You're welcome to attend & observe.

Bodhidharma Commemoration - February 7 @11am

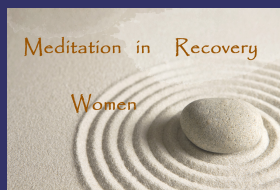
Study Hour - Thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra. We are back in session on Jan 8th after several weeks off! We can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online, we focus on Dr Thurman's version). Check our twitter page for any last minute changes in schedule.

Closure & Schedule Changes coming up!

No Morning (only) Zazen & Chanting/Service on the Last Monday of every month

December 24, 25, 26 for the Christmas Holiday; 31st altered schedule January 1st for New Years day

Words From Our Abbot: Rev Myō Lahey



(Women only)
monthly meditation group for
women in recovery from addiction.

First Thurs, 7:15 pm -8:45 pm

Death is perceived as this threat to the continuity of the self and rightfully so, but Buddha taught I think rather effectively that while that's true it's nothing to be worried about. In recent years I found I don't worry about it much. Instead I shift the perspective and find myself asking a question my teacher presented as a worthwhile question. "Is this (what I am doing at any particular moment) a good use of the light?" And of course, on the surface that may sound puzzling. Well wait a minute, "what is the light and how can we know how to answer that question if we don't know what the light is?". I would suggest that you can only answer that question if you don't know what the light is because the light is not an object of the knowledge.

There is of course a very famous story attributed to Master Yumen who told his fellow practitioners one day, or maybe we say he reminded them that everyone has a light; and he said if you go looking for it you can't see it. And someone said what is everybody's light? And in his day he said it's the kitchen pantry or the main gate and we might as well say the front steps or the back bathroom. That is everybody's light.

This is simply another way of expressing what other Buddhists, other bunches of Buddhist said "this whole thing that we call the universe, is mind". Some have people tried to equate that with a trend in western philosophy called idealism and I don't think that's quite right, somehow. Of what little I understand of western idealism and everybody's light, they don't seem to meet very well.

This light the ancients talked about is what illuminates the whole world. And the light that shines among everything and brings it into view is course, it's not separable from being. The more we talk about it the more it gets abstract. So Master Yumen, quite effectively interrupted that tendency by saying "the front steps, the back bathroom". So everybody has a light, that if you look for it you can't see it and it is inseparable from what is happening, right now.

Since the light can be put to all manner of uses it is a pretty good question to ask yourself "is this a good use of the light?"

[HSZC Dharma talk Fall 2014](#)

HSZC Annual New Year's Event!

Please join us December 31st 2014 @ 7:30pm to respectfully leave behind things we no longer need in 2015 and ring in the new year... LITERALLY ring it in!

There'll be some soji or traditional New Year's temple cleaning, a light snack, zazen (seated meditation), striking our large bell 108 times, a fire burning ceremonial of past 2014 events and finally a toast to the new year.

Please note: There won't be the regularly scheduled zendo events on the 31st and HSZC closed Jan 1, 2015. Chinese new year will be observed in the months ahead, more to come on this!

From the HSZC library... A "shelfie"!



(A bit of library humor based on the [selfie](#) phenomina that went into library [Shelfies](#). HSZC shelf of books and Tamil Actor Surya As Bodhidharma)



Traditional Japanese New Year offering

Holidays or LGBTIQQ Events:

[New Year's Eve](#) - Dec 31

[New Year 2015](#) - Jan 1, 2015

[Recognition of Dogen's birth](#) - Jan 24

Bodhidharma Commemoration - Feb 7[Additional LGBTQI Events here](#) - OR - [found Here](#)

Seeking a **LGBTIQQ**, **Buddhist** space **for your wedding**? HSZC & Abbot Rev. Myō Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myō can perform weddings! Please email



hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or a better way yet is to stop in & discuss during our publicly open hours.

Abbot, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



57 Hartford Street
San Francisco, CA 94114



info@hszc.org

415.863.2507

Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to

KeiDo at tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com
May this newsletter find you well & equanimous! __/|__

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